

Speech Mayor Mr. B.M.H. Link Geldrop-Mierlo New Year meeting 2019

Publication 8 January 2019 Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, Welcome to the ice rink of Wintersfeer. The past few weeks thousands of visitors have been skating at this beautiful location. Residents from Geldrop and Mierlo and visitors from outside the municipal boundaries came together here. The ice rink is one of the many locations in our municipality where people visit each other and feel involved with each other and with what is going on in our municipality. Winter atmosphere Geldrop is an example of an event that makes clear how connected we are. We feel at home in ONS Geldrop-Mierlo. We are proud of our community and we are celebrating it today at our New Year's reception, among other things. I would like to emphasise this because I think it is a great privilege that I have been your mayor for several years now. It is nice to be part of this beautiful congregation. Geldrop-Mierlo lives and it evokes a special feeling with me when I walk, cycle or ride through both centres. This special feeling is nourished by Geldrop's and Mierlo's own identity, its green appearance and the well-maintained living environment, its beautiful and varied districts and neighbourhoods. But also because of its high level of facilities. Over the years a lot has been achieved to improve or expand all this. I am also proud of Geldrop-Mierlo because of its rich club life. And don't forget all the volunteers and informal carers that many people in our community can call upon. I have a lot of appreciation for this. This commitment says something about the commitment and feeling of solidarity. This motivates us to be able to give form and content to the ideals that the council, the college and I as mayor have for this municipality. All for ONS Geldrop-Mierlo! I am glad that you are here today, especially because we can personally wish each other all the best for the New Year. Did you know that there will be two important milestones in 2019? We celebrate 100 years of electoral rights and that we were liberated 75 years ago. Important moments in our history that shaped us and made the Netherlands what it is today. A country where we can move freely, where we can stand up for our opinions and enjoy important democratic achievements. Like having the right to vote! Nowadays voting is a matter of course, but it took a lot of effort before everyone was given the right to vote. In small steps, the right to vote was extended. It started with the Constitution of Thorbecke on 3 November 1848 with direct elections. From then on, Dutch men aged 23 and over elected the members of the House of Representatives. On 27 September 1918 Henri Marchant, leader of the Liberal Democratic Union, submitted a proposal, which stated that Dutch women should have the right to vote just like men. After much

On 9 May 1919, the Lower House voted in favour of women's suffrage by a large majority. This made the right to vote general, i.e. for men and women aged 18 and over. Thanks to universal suffrage, our inhabitants were able to decide on 21 March 2018 who may represent them in the municipal council. In recent months, I have experienced a committed and enthusiastic municipal council with members - elected representatives - who are committed to the local interest with all their heart and soul. After the municipal elections, a new college also started work. This consists, next to me, of aldermen Marc Jeuken, Peter Looijmans, Hans van de Laar and Rob van

Otterdijk. We will work together to create a community in which the majority does not choose its way, without taking into account or listening to the minority. ONS Geldrop-Mierlo must above all be a community in which we take each other by the hand and communicate with each other. This so-called "Inclusive thinking" is mainly focused on relationships and relations. In our actions, we must be open to our environment, curious and involved towards each other, tolerant and patient. Accepting each other and showing compassion. The new college attaches great importance to this! This also requires our municipal organisation to act in a way that is focused on the person behind our customer. The council sets a good example in this respect. It is not for nothing that their compass for the coming years contains a number of principles for this. For example, in the coming years the Board will work hard to increase the bond between residents, entrepreneurs and organisations. This means that we will make an active effort to get to know you, our residents, entrepreneurs and organisations better. Only in this way can we find out what is going on in our village. In consultation with you, we will make plans. What is needed? And how can we as a municipality support this? Together we will make ONS Geldrop-Mierlo. In all kinds of areas. I just mentioned two milestones in 2019. The first was 100 years of voting rights. Milestone two has everything to do with our right to choose and our freedom to act, to have an opinion. Thanks to the right to vote, we live in a democracy. Unfortunately, we also had times when that freedom was taken away from us by the Nazis. In September 2019, it will be 75 years since Brabant was liberated from the occupiers. This meant the restoration of our free and open democratic constitutional state. During the commemoration and celebration of 75 years of freedom in September of this year, connection will be the key word. Thus, the "Liberation Route" connects the most important regions during the advance of the Allies in the Second World War for our freedom. This route also calls at Geldrop-Mierlo. Our city council has recently decided to place two listening columns along the route. These tell us and our children the stories about what happened at those locations during the Second World War. The first column will be placed near the English Cemetery in Mierlo, the second near the villa on the Nieuwendijk in Geldrop where General and Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery had his headquarters in the spring of 1945. They contribute to our awareness that living in freedom is not self-evident and that we must always propagate our privilege to live in freedom. I therefore warmly invite you to

This year we will listen to these stories and celebrate together that we have been able to live in freedom with each other for 75 years. Geldrop-Mierlo has become what it is today thanks to the aforementioned milestones. A warm and social community, where everyone feels or should feel welcome. Together we make ONS Geldrop-Mierlo. I wish you all a healthy, happy, but above all inspiring and Blessed New Year!

Source: Gemeente Geldrop-Mierlo

Mayor Mr. B.H.M.Link

January 08- 2019